

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024305

62

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 024305

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, US, UR

SUBJECT: US USSR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGREEMENT,
PROJECT V-2.1, PROTECTION OF NORTHERN ECOSYSTEMS 02.05-2.1.

REQUEST EMBASSY ACTION ON FOLLOWING:

1. DR. LESLIE A. VIERICK, U.S. FOREST SERVICE, AND
MR. SALVATORE DE LEONARDIS, U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT,
VISITED THE USSR JULY 3-24, 1975, UNDER PROJECT V-2.1,
PROTECTION OF NORTHERN ECOSYSTEMS, SUBPROJECT B-2, EFFECTS
OF WILDFIRES AND FIRE CONTROL METHODS ON NORTHERN ECO-
SYSTEMS.

2. AT THEIR DEPARTURE FROM THE USSR ON JULY 24 AT
KHABAROVSK AIRPORT, CURRENCY EXCHANGE RAN OUT OF U.S.
DOLLARS. IN KEEPING WITH SOVIET CURRENCY EXPORT REGULA-
TIONS, VIERICK AND DE LEONARDIS SURRENDERED SOVIET
ROUBLES IN THEIR POSSESSION. IN RETURN, THEY RECEIVED IOU'S
FROM THE STATE BANK OF THE USSR (GOSUDARSTVENNI BANK).
DE LEONARDIS REQUESTED THAT THE SUM OWED HIM BE SENT AIR-
MAIL. VIERICK PREFERRED TO HAVE HIS FUNDS SENT BY CABLE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 024305

3. DE LEONARDIS RECEIVED REIMBURSEMENT IN SEPTEMBER BY CHECK SENT THROUGH THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK IN NEW YORK.

AS YET, VIERECK HAS HEARD NOTHING OF THE DOLLAR EQUIVALENT OF THE 275 ROUBLE SUM OWED HIM.

4. VIERICK FEELS THAT THE REASON FOR THE DELAY MAY BE THE SOVIET SIDE'S LOSS OF HIS ADDRESS: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, PACIFIC NORTHWEST FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION, INSTITUTE OF NORTHERN FORESTRY, U.S. FOREST SERVICE, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701. THE ADDRESS HAD BEEN WRITTEN ON NOTE PAPER AND CLIPPED TO THE SOVIET SIDE'S COPY OF THE IOU AT Khabarovsk AIRPORT.

5. COPY OF IOU NUMBER 121402 WAS SENT BY DIPLOMATIC POUCH ON FRIDAY JANUARY 30TH TO DR. LOEBNER, REGISTRY NUMBER 2870366. KISSINGER

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